GONE-AWAY LAKE

Synopsis

It's summer vacation and Portia and her brother Davy are going to spend it in the country with their Aunt, Uncle, and cousin. Portia and her cousin Julian are good friends and like to go exploring together. They find an abandoned house surrounded by a swampy area and two people who live there. They become friends with the people in the house, Mrs. Cheever and her brother Pindar, and visit them regularly. Davy becomes suspicious of their secret trips and tries to follow them one day. While trying to cross the swamp he gets caught in the Gulper and Mrs. Cheever and Uncle Pindar save him. The secret of the lost houses is finally out, but it leads to even more fun and friendships in the end.
1. What is the setting of this story?
   A. Spring
   B. Summer
   C. Fall

2. To what does Julian compare Portia's new braces?

3. Personification is when an object is given human characteristics. In which of the following is the author using personification?
   A. "A bird flashed among them red as a stop light."
   B. The puppies "... had little dark faces like pansies."
   C. "...Soft grass rippling and running through the meadows."

4. If someone was bellowing at you, what would they be doing?

5. Put the following events in the correct order.
   _____ Portia and Foster arriving at their aunt and uncle's house
   _____ Davy, the next-door neighbor, introduces himself
   _____ Aunt Hilda showing them around the house
   _____ Katy having puppies

6. How do you think Davy knew that Foster was going to be at the Jarman house?

7. What made Portia afraid of the houses when they first discovered them?
1. What reasons did Julian use to convince Portia that the people who lived in the ghost town would be friendly?

2. Gone-Away Lake is a nickname for:
   A. Tarrigo Lake
   B. Crany Crow
   C. Corinth

3. Why were their houses built all around the swampy area?

4. What does "skedaddled" mean?

5. Why are Mrs. Cheever and her brother living in the ghost town?

6. Choose either Mrs. Cheever OR her brother Pindar and tell two things you find interesting or unusual about her or him.

7. What would you find the hardest to live without if you were to live in Mrs. Cheever's house?

8. Portia says that walking through the swamp is like "...walking on an acre of whipped cream." Describe how you think that would feel
1. At the beginning of Chapter Six, Mr. Payton relates a story using which of the following techniques?
   A. Predicting
   B. Flashback
   C. Fable

2. What trick did Mr. Payton play on his friend Tarquin when they were just boys?

3. In which of the old homes were Portia and Julian making a clubhouse?
   A. Crany Crow
   B. Villa Caprice
   C. Bellemere

4. A simile is a comparison that uses like or as, for example, "'Gold! It cries gasping "like a fish..." Find another simile and write it down and on what page you found it.

5. What does the word "foibles' mean?

6. Why do you think Julian wanted to keep Gone-Away Lake a secret from his family?

7. Julian and Portia liked to spend their time at Gone-Away Lake. Describe a place where you like to spend your spare time.
1. Who tries to follow Portia and Julian to discover where they disappear to each day?
   A. Davy
   B. Katy
   C. Foster

2. Find and write down a sentence that appeals to your sense of hearing in this section of the reading.

3. What is the Gulper?

4. What does the word "lamely" mean?

5. What do you think Mrs. Cheever and Mr. Payton thought when they found out that they had been kept a secret?

6. Why do you think people say unkind words about others whom they have never met?

7. Does Mrs. Cheever like having the children around or not? Explain how you came to that conclusion.

8. Would you rather have worked on the bridge in the mud, or walked around visiting and collecting things? WHY?
1. What was so unusual about the turtle Davy and Foster brought to show Pindar?

2. Why did Portia and Lucy leave Villa Caprice so quickly?

3. Find an example of either a simile or of personification. Write it down and tell which type it is and on what page you found it.

4. What does "intermittent" mean?

5. Put a check by the event, which happened last at Villa Caprice.
   _____ The flashlight going off
   _____ The squirrel running over Julian’s foot
   _____ finding the chandelier

6. Imagine you were with Tom and Julian as they entered Villa Caprice. Describe how you would have felt.

7. Tell about an unusual or interesting experience that happened to you during a vacation or when you were with your family.

8. On the back write a short sequel explaining what you think would happen if the story continued.
LESSON 1

1. B
2. Julian compares Portia’s new braces to the front of a Buick.
3. C
4. If someone was bellowing they would be calling or yelling in a loud voice.
5. The correct order is 2, 4, 3, and 1.
6. Answers will vary. Davy probably knew that Foster was arriving because Julian or someone in the Jarman family had told him; know that he and Foster had similar interests.
7. Portia was afraid of the houses they stumbled onto because they were deserted and looked haunted.

LESSON 2

1. Julian tried to convince Portia that the people in the ghost town were not ghosts or dangerous because they kept ducks and grew roses.
2. A
3. The houses had been built around a lake as summer homes for rich people. Then the lake dried up leaving a swamp.
4. Skedaddled means to get away quickly.
5. Mrs. Cheever and are brother are living in the ghost town because they were tired of the busy world and their funds were getting so low they decided to return to the summer home of their parents.
6. Answers will vary.
7. Answers will vary.
8. Answers will vary.
LESSON 3

1. B
2. Mr. Payton pretended that the philosopher stone was magical and would turn objects into gold by scraping them against the rock for a length of time.
3. C
4. Answers will vary.
5. Foibles is a weakness or failing in character of behavior.
6. Answers will vary
7. Answers will vary.

LESSON 4

1. C
2. Answers will vary, one is the rain drumming.
3. The Gulper is a spot in the swamp where an object can be sucked under until it disappears.
4. Lamely means to lack substance, to be weak.
5. Answers will vary.
6. Answers will vary. Bring out the idea that people saying unkind things about others they have never met is a type of prejudice.
7. Mrs. Cheever likes having the children around. Answers will vary as to how they came to that conclusion.
8. Answers will vary.
LESSON 5

1. Davy and Foster brought Uncle Pindar a turtle that was unusual because it had the word T A R Q U I N and the date 1891 carved on it.

2. Portia and Lucy left Villa Caprice quickly because they heard strange noises that scared them.

3. Answers will vary.

4. Intermittent means stopping and starting at intervals.

5. The event, which happened last, was the squirrel running over Julian’s foot.

6. Answers will vary.

7. Answers will vary.

8. Answers will vary.